

STUDIES ATOMS
 Richard A. Fayram, assistant professor of mechanical engineering at the University of California, has left the Berkeley campus for the joint establishment for nuclear energy re-

search at Kjeller, Norway. He will return at the end of this year.

Mr. and Mrs. Truman E. Kelley, of 18924 Corise Ave., announce the birth of a son, Larry Truman, weighing 5 pounds and 12 ounces.



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Civic Center Architect Develops 1st Atomic Blast-Resistant Home

An atomic-explosion resisting house, the first to be built in Los Angeles county, is now under construction on Graciosa Drive in Hollywood, according to Marion J. Varner, Pasadena architect, who has designed the blast and radiation-resisting dwelling.

The home is the direct outgrowth of Varner's work in Torrance where he has been constructing the new civic center and several fire stations.

What may be the forerunner of wide-scale construction of atomic-blast survival residences will have fire-resistant, pre-cast, reinforced-concrete panel walls one-half a foot thick and will rest on a concrete slab three-and-a-half inches thick, states the designer, Mr. Varner.

To all outward appearances the 1850 square-foot residence will not vary from conventional home designs. Its differences will lie chiefly in its extra-thick concrete walls and in almost unnoticeable variations in window and door sizes and positions.

Based upon data obtained by the Atomic Energy Commission in tests at Yucca Flats, Nevada, and at Eniwetok atoll, partitions in the house are positioned to provide the maximum possible roof support. Both exterior and interior walls are designed so that the presently planned roof may be replaced with one of pre-cast, reinforced-concrete panels in less time than it would take to shingle a conventional roof of the same area.

The 1850-square-foot dwelling is being built for David Rossi, of Hollywood. The house will contain four bedrooms, three bathrooms, a living room, dining area and a combination kitchen and breakfast bar. There will be an attached carport for two automobiles.

The windows will have steel sash and like the solid-slab, birch doors will be slightly larger than is usually found in homes of this size. The purpose of this is to permit partial balancing of possible blast pressures, found essential from atom-bomb tests and from studies of blast effects on various types of structures in Nagasaki and Hiroshima following their atom-bombing in World War II.

Providing strategically placed openings through which some pressure may enter a structure reduces the pressures for which walls and roof must be designed. Also, by building the house on a reinforced-concrete slab, there is no danger of floor collapse such as would occur if a conventional raised foundation were used, Mr. Varner explains. One of the major hazards of floor

collapse would be the parting of gas lines with the attendant danger of fire and explosion, he says.

Main Panels
 The main structural panels of concrete which will form the walls will be two-feet wide, between eight and nine feet long and six-inches thick. Each panel will have built-in channels running from top to bottom in which will be placed electrical lines, plumbing and reinforcing steel rods. Lighting will be contained in recessed and flush fixtures. All interior walls will be plastered and wood work will be kept at a minimum to lessen fire hazards.

All of the foregoing structural details have been developed from Atomic Energy Commission data which includes photos showing the effects in sequence of thermal blast on test houses built for the most recent Yucca Flats atom-bomb tests in Nevada.

Two houses built of pre-cast, reinforced concrete panels were erected at 4700 and 10,500 feet from "ground zero" for the recent tests. Both withstood the bomb effects better than other types of construction and emerged with little damage. From data evolved from the foregoing experiments, home designs have been developed that will withstand pressures more than two-and-a-half times those which smashed houses in Nagasaki and Hiroshima, Japan.

Studied Problems
 Varner began studying atomic-age home design more than a year ago. "During the elapsed time he has worked out many of the details of pre-cast concrete panel home construction while using this system to design a series of city halls, fire and police stations which has developed for the cities of Torrance, Hawthorne and San Fernando." The same principles were used by Varner in the design of a bank and a civic recreational building in Inglewood.

As a result of his studies and the above construction, Varner has proved his architectural theories and has solved the structural problems to the extent that the county's first atomic-age home is being erected at a cost of less than \$25,000 for 1850 square feet of floor space. Until now, it has not been practicable to provide this type of home construction within the foregoing figure.

Inasmuch as this is the first house of its type to be erected here, it was necessary for Varner to furnish the city building department with much more detailed engineering data than would be required for a house of conventional design and construction. The dwelling has been under construction for three weeks and by the end of the month the walls will be going up. The owner, David Rossi, of Hollywood, will move into the home in May, Varner says.

CO-ED VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULED

A co-ed volleyball tourney will begin for boys and girls between the ages of 15 and 19 years, starting February 29. Awards will be given the first and second place teams, and refreshments will be served to those attending. Recreation department officials announced this week.

Each team will be allowed a maximum of 12 names on the roster. Each team will be allowed a maximum of three boys and girls on the playing court at a time. Although there must be at least three girls on the court, the number may be increased to four girls, thereby decreasing the number of boys allotted to two.

Roster sheets and rule sheets may be obtained at the Recreation Department, 1647 El Prado, any week day between 8 to 5 or at the Torrance high girls' gym either Monday or Thursday evenings between 7 and 9:30.

Students Win Scholarships In Fisheries

Richard G. Van Dyke of Torrance won one of the two \$250 scholarships awarded to students in fisheries at the University of Washington, it was announced today by the university. The scholarships were given by the Northern Commercial Company of Seattle.

Van Dyke is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Riens G. Van Dyke, 1519 W. 214th st., Torrance. He is a 1949 graduate of Narbonne high school, and attended Compton junior college and Oregon State college before coming to the university.

The other scholarship was won by James L. Burnett of Auburn.

Van Dyke is a graduate student in the field of fishers technology. The scholarship was awarded annually on the basis of scholarship and quality of academic work in the School of Fisheries.

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ARCHIE'S MARKET 1617 CABRILLO AVE.—TORRANCE (3 DOORS NORTH OF BUS STATION)		NEWTON PIPPIN APPLES EAT or COOK 4 Lbs. For 25¢

The Green Thumber, DIFFERENT WAYS OF PLANTING TREES TOLD

By LEWIS LORING
 Years ago trees were fairly popular in the home landscape that were budded to provide several varieties of fruit on one tree. This has gradually become unpopular during the past few years, and a newer method has been substituted. This is the planting of two or three trees in one hole making each individual tree about eighteen inches to two feet from the other, and with the top of the tree leaning slightly out from the center.

Same Characteristics
 For those of you who are cramped for space in your garden, this method works out very well. It is very important, however, to plant only varieties that have the same growth characteristics. Two or three different kinds of peaches, apricots, plums, nectarines, or almonds is one method and choosing an early, mid-season, or late bearing type of each.

Another method is to plant two or three similar types. An example of this would be the planting of plums with prunes, and a final method would be to group varieties together which will need pollination for best results. It is a well known fact that pears, almonds, and plums will do better when planted with another variety to pollinate.

Careful Pruning
 If we do decide to plant two or three of a type together, we must be careful in our pruning each year to hold each tree into the particular part of the total circle it is to grow. This can be done each year for the trees must be pruned anyway, and keeping them into a lower and bushier habit is best, rather than into the characteristic tree shape.

If you want a quantity of delicious fruit trees and lack space, try this method which has been proven a success in this area.

3 Candidates For School Board Noted

The County Board of Education announced that three persons have filed to date as candidates for the coming school board elections in May.

They are: Grace Wright of 1532 El Prado, J. G. Arnold of 1551 Post ave., and Dr. Eleanore Z. Thill of 3310 Primm Way, Torrance.

Mrs. Wright and Arnold are running for re-election to the board. At present they and Darwin Parrish hold the three seats on the board which will be open for election.

Dr. Thill is an optometrist. Deadline for filing petitions is 5 p.m. on April 18. Petitions must be in the County office, Room 597, at that time.

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